mechanical damage. Since the flow wrapped tablets are packed loose in the point of sale carton, any movement, particularly if excessive, will cause the tablets contained within the flow wrap to come into contact with one another, potentially resulting in damage. Where the tablet is irritant or hazardous to the user in other ways, the user, before being able to dispense a tablet, needs to remove the flow wrap barrier material, exposing himself or herself to a potential hazard. In addition, the flow wrap barrier material is now waste and needs to be disposed of.

Product containerisation systems have been developed in which a product or products is attached to one side, hereinafter referred to as the upper side, of a planar sheet which is subsequently folded into a package. By this means, a number of packaging steps is able to be combined, thereby eliminating at least one packaging process, as well as affording a higher level of protection for the products against mechanical damage and increased convenience for the consumer.

Statement of Invention

According to the invention there is provided a product containerisation system created by attaching at least one product to one side of a planar sheet by overlaying a polymeric film over the product and one side of the planar sheet by a skin packing process, and then folding the planar sheet into an erected container or package, in which the polymeric film is selected and arranged such that twisting the product and overlying film about an axis transverse to the planar sheet shears the polymeric film generally around the perimeter of the product adjacent the planar sheet.

Skin packing is a term which will be readily recognised by the skilled addressee of the specification and is a method of forming a skin of a polymeric material over items placed on a backing sheet or board.

As an example which is by no means limiting of the preferred embodiment, the products may be tablets which are precisely placed in two groups of 8

CLAIMS

1. A product containerisation system created by attaching at least one product to one side of a planar sheet by overlaying a polymeric film over the product and one side of the planar sheet by a skin packing process, and then folding the planar sheet into an erected container or package, in which the polymeric film is selected and arranged such that twisting the product and overlying film about an axis transverse to the planar sheet shears the polymeric film generally around the perimeter of the product adjacent the planar sheet.

2. A product containerisation system according to Claim 1 in which the polymeric film is embrittled or otherwise weakened in order to facilitate shearing of the polymeric film for easy removal of the product.

3. A product containerisation system according to Claim 1 or 2 in which the polymeric film is water-soluble or water-dispersible.

4. A product containerisation system according to Claim 3 where the polymeric film is made substantially from poly-vinyl alcohol (PVOH).

5. A product containerisation system according to any of Claims 1 to 4 where the planar sheet is corrugated fibreboard, carton board or folding boxboard.

6. A product containerisation system according to any of Claims 1 to 4 where the planar sheet is non-porous to the passage of air when one side of the planar sheet is subjected to a vacuum.

7. A product containerisation system according to Claim 6 where the non-porous sheet is a polymeric sheet or a ribbed extrusion of a polymeric material.

8. A product containerisation system according to any one of the preceding claims in which the product comprises a solid item having at least one

hollow for receiving a secondary composition, the secondary composition being retained in the hollow by sealing a water soluble polymeric film over the composition and at least part of the solid item.

9. A product containerisation system according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the planar sheet comprises a series of panels arranged in a row, a plurality of such panels having at least one product mounted thereon, and in which each panel is folded with respect to its adjacent panel to form a package in the form of a square or rectangular roll.

10. A product containerisation system according to claim 8, in which the planar sheet comprises at least five panels.

11. A product containerisation system according to claim 8 or 9, in which each of the series of panels has at least one product mounted thereon.

12. A system for the preparation of a package according to any one of the preceding claims.